

ARTICLE APPEARED  
ON PAGE 41-42

U.S. NEWS & WORLD REPORT  
24 March 1980

# Worldwide Crackdown On Soviet Spies

The honeymoon is over for Moscow's secret agents. So-called Russian diplomats are getting bounced from New Zealand to Canada to France.

Reported from  
WORLD CAPITALS

The Soviet invasion of Afghanistan has boomeranged on Moscow with consequences the Kremlin never expected—a worldwide crackdown on Russian espionage.

One government after another has sent Soviet envoys packing amid charges that the Russians are more interested in undercover skulduggery than diplomacy.

The incidents are seen as a serious embarrassment to Moscow, which is trying to burnish an image sorely tarnished by its unexpected invasion of Afghanistan.

Since the Russian forces marched into Afghanistan in late December, Japan, New Zealand, Spain, France and Canada have either expelled or otherwise forced Soviet officials to leave.

The U.S., too, is doing its part to embarrass the Russians. In March, the Federal Bureau of Investigation unveiled a onetime officer of the KGB, the Soviet spy agency, who was caught in the act.

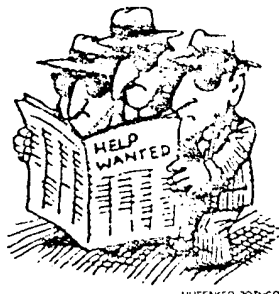
Identified as Rudolph Albert Herrmann, the spy told reporters that he had spent 11 years gathering political intelligence for Russia while seeming to live a humdrum existence as a freelance photographer in Long Island, N.Y. After Herrmann was caught, the FBI said, he became a double agent, providing valuable information about Soviet espionage techniques and about another KGB spy. Because of his help, Herrmann will be allowed to remain in the U.S., free from prosecution.

Earlier, the Central Intelligence Agency released a report detailing how, even during the heyday of détente, the Soviet Union used forged State Department and Pentagon documents in a massive effort to alienate America from Egypt, Greece and oth-

er countries. The KGB was accused of playing a leading role in this international deception.

No nation is openly linking moves against Soviet spies directly to the attack on Afghanistan. But diplomatic and intelligence sources say the rash of action is far from coincidental.

Russian espionage has been flagrant in many capitals since World War II, yet relatively few agents have been nabbed for cloak-and-dagger work. Diplomacy is one reason. In a time of détente, some governments have ignored espionage rather than risk offending the Kremlin with a crackdown. The Af-

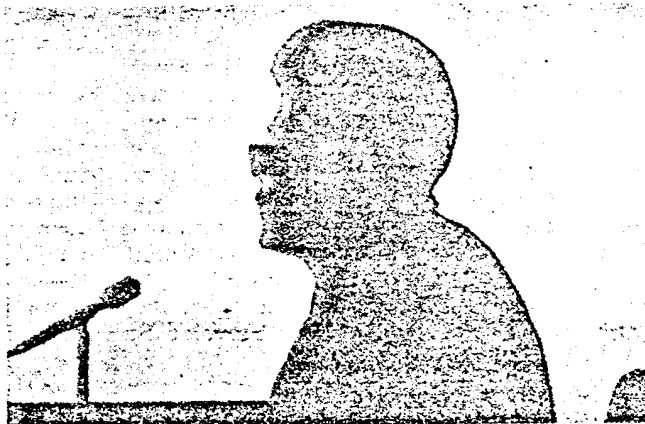


HUFFAKER/ROTHCO

liomats in Switzerland actually are spying for either the KGB or for Russia's military-intelligence agency.

But Swiss officials prefer to keep a close eye on Russians identified as spies rather than to expel them. They cite a practical reason: Any agents ordered out of the country would quickly be replaced by new operators unknown to Switzerland's antispies unit.

"I think it is fair to say that most governments around the world now are a little more suspicious of the Soviets and probably prepared to be a little tougher," says Malcolm Toon, former U.S. ambassador to the Soviet Union. "In



With his present appearance obscured by a screen, Col. Rudolph Herrmann tells reporters how he became a double agent and gave the FBI information about Soviet espionage.



ghan invasion appears, however, to have changed radically the political climate in which Russian spies operate. Governments seem more willing to bruise Moscow's feelings by putting a stop to Soviet espionage.

In at least one recent case, officials had hard evidence against a Russian spy long before they actually moved to expel the agent. In another episode, authorities were aware of an agent's clandestine efforts for a full two years before finally confronting him.

Even the fervently neutral Swiss are taking a harder line toward the Soviet Union. For the first time, the Swiss government recently made public the approximate number of Russian spies working in the country. It estimated that at least 200 of the 650 Soviet dip-

the past, some countries have handled this sort of thing quietly, or overlooked it in the interest of maintaining good relations."

A case in point is Japan, which has a reputation for being notoriously lax about foreign espionage within its borders. Not only does Japan lack tough antiespionage laws, but its self-defense forces have no authority to root out spying within their own ranks. This has made Japan a safe spy center for all of Asia, especially since relations between China and Russia have deteriorated.

Yet Tokyo's Metropolitan Police Force announced in mid-January that it had cracked a spy ring involving two Russian Embassy officials and three Japanese military-intelligence officers. Biggest of its type since World War II,